limit. The Board, in its discretion, may impose shortened time periods for any actions required or permitted under these rules, necessary to enable the Board to decide the appeal within the 180-day limit, allowing whatever time, up to 30 days, that the Board considers necessary for the preparation of the decision after closing the record and the filing of briefs, if any.

(e) Decisions in appeals considered under the ACCELERATED procedure are rendered by a single Administrative Judge, subject to the concurrence of the Vice-Chair or another assigned Administrative Judge. In the event of an even division on an appeal, the Chair participates in the decision of the appeal. Written decisions of appeals considered under this procedure are short and contain only summary findings of fact and conclusions. In cases where the amount in dispute is $10,000 or less and there has been a hearing under the ACCELERATED procedure the presiding Administrative Judge may, in his or her discretion, hear closing oral arguments of the parties and then render an oral decision on the appeal. Such decision will include summary findings of fact and conclusions. Whenever such an oral decision is rendered the Board subsequently furnishes the parties with a written transcript of the oral decision for record and payment purposes and to commence the time period for the filing of a motion for reconsideration under Rule 33.

(f) Decisions of the Board under the ACCELERATED procedure are published and have precedential value. Such decisions may be appealed by either party.

6302.11 Submission of appeal without a hearing (Rule 11).

Either party may elect to waive a hearing and to submit its case upon the record before the Board pursuant to Rule 17. Submission of a case without hearing does not relieve a party from the necessity of proving the facts supporting that party's allegation or defenses. Affidavits, depositions, admissions, answers to interrogatories, and stipulations may be employed to supplement other documentary evidence in the Board record. The Board may permit such submission to be supplemented by oral argument (transcribed if requested) and by briefs in accordance with Rule 26.

6302.12 Regular procedure (Rule 12).

Under the regular procedure the parties are required to file pleadings with the Board (Rule 13). The regular procedure affords the parties an opportunity to make full use of prehearing and discovery procedures. Hearings under the regular procedure are conducted in the same manner as before courts of the United States in non-jury trials.

6302.13 Pleadings (Rule 13).

(a) *Complaint.* Under the regular procedure the appellant, within 30 days after receipt of the appeal file, shall file with the Board an original and two copies of a complaint setting forth simple, concise, and direct statements of each of its claims, alleging the basis, with appropriate reference to contract provisions, for each claim, and the dollar amount claimed. This pleading shall fulfill the generally recognized requirements of a complaint, although no particular form is required. If the complaint is not filed within 30 days and, in the opinion of the Board, the issues before the Board are sufficiently defined, the appellant's claim and notice of appeal may be deemed to be its complaint, and the parties are so notified.

(b) *Answer.* Within 30 days from receipt of said complaint or a Rule 13(a) notice from the Board, the Government shall file with the Board an original and two copies of an answer, setting forth simple, concise, and direct statements of the Government's defense to each claim asserted by appellant. This pleading shall fulfill the generally recognized requirements of an answer and shall set forth any affirmative defenses as appropriate. Should the answer not be filed within 30 days, the Board may, in its discretion, enter a general denial on behalf of the Government, and the parties are so notified.

6302.14 Amendments of pleadings or record (Rule 14).

(a) *Pleadings.* The Board upon its own initiative or upon application by a party may, in its discretion, order a